

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W
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R 281530Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 2345

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MO

SUBJ: M'HAMMED BOUCETTA NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF ISTIQLAL
PARTY

REF: RABAT 2114

1. ISTIQLAL PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
EVENING MAY 27 ANNOUNCING THAT AFTER STUDYING PARTY'S
ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS AT MEETING SAME DAY IT HAD
UNANIMOUSLY DESIGNATED M'HAMMED BOUCETTA AS ITS
SECRETARY-GENERAL.

2. COMMENT: LONG-TIME PARTY LEADER, FORMER MINISTER
OF JUSTICE, AND HEAD OF LARGE RABAT LAW FIRM, BOUCETTA
IN EFFECT NOW SUCCEEDS PARTY PRESIDENT ALLAL AL-FASSI WHO
DIED MAY 13. IN CONVERSATION MAY 28, BOUCETTA TOLD
EMBOFF THAT PARTY DECIDED DROP TITLE PRESIDENT, WHICH
WAS GIVEN TO HISTORIC FIGURE ALLAL AL-FASSI IN 1960
AFTER AHMED BALAFREJ LEFT POSITION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL
(AND ISTIQLAL PARTY).

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3. BOUCETTA ALSO SAID THAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS NAMED

FOUR COLLEAGUES TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS DEPUTIES IN
POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD (MOHAMED DOUIRI FOR ECONOMIC
QUESTIONS; BOUBKIR KADIRI, PARTY ORGANIZATION; ABDELHAK
TAZI, YOUTH; AND ABDELKRIM GHALLAB, PRESS). PARTY
PREFERRED TO LIMIT ANNOUNCEMENT TO TOP POST IN ORDER NOT
TO LESSEN IMPACT. IN DISCUSSING PARTY'S PLANS, BOUCETTA
SAID THAT SPECIAL ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO ATTRACT YOUTH
AND THAT PARTY CONGRESS (FIRST REGULAR ONE SINCE 1967)
IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RABAT02345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0772
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaalur.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RABAT 2114
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: M'HAMMED BOUCETTA NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF ISTIQLAL PARTY
TAGS: PINT, MO, ISTIQLAL, (BOUCETTA, M'HAMMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005